

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson (US 5,463,724), in view of Barnes, "10 Minute Guide to Windows 3.1", Alpha, 1992, pp. 60 - 64. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection and offers the following argument in support thereof.

Applicant's independent claims 1 and 12 specifically limit the invention to a set of ranges of cells, each range having the same size and at least two of said ranges having different relative addresses. The Examiner has cited Anderson column 9, line 61, through column 10, line 31, and column 7, line 62, through column 8, line 10, and FIGs. 4G - 4J as describing a group of cells having different addresses relative to the pages where the cell groups are found. A careful analysis of the cited portions of Anderson does not support this determination for the following reasons.

Regarding column 9, line 61, through column 10, line 31, Anderson describes selecting a range of pages, e.g., page A to page K as a group. A noncontiguous selection of pages may also be made, e.g., page A and page D but not page B and C. Other groups may be formed and a page can be selected to be in more than one group. A group may be active or temporarily turned off.

When a group is active, an activity in a page which is in the active group affects or is percolated to similarly situated cells of the other pages in the active group. Anderson specifically states that, for example, information entered in a cell on one page of the group is propagated to the same (relative) cell in other pages of the group, column 10, line 20. Anderson also states that an entry into cell C4 of page A

automatically appears in cell C4 of pages B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, and K for an A - K grouping, column 10, lines 24 - 26. A block operation for cells A1 to C4 in page A in an A - D grouping operates in the same cells (i.e. from A1 to C4) for page B to page D, column 10, lines 26 - 31. Anderson's automatic percolation is to ranges having the same relative address in each page of the group, and not to a method of ranges having different relative addresses as required by Applicant's independent claims 1 and 12.

Regarding the citation of Anderson column 7, line 62, through column 8, line 10, there is nothing in this section describing ranges having different relative addresses.

Regarding the citation of FIGs. 4G - 4J, these are described in column 10, line 58, through column 11, line 30. A "model copy" technique is described in which a block contains absolute addresses. When the block is copied to a new location, the absolute references adjust to the new location, however, absolute references remain absolute to make future copies absolute. This model copy capability occurs within a single page and has no bearing on groups having different addresses relative to the pages where the groups are found.

Thus, there is no description in the cited passages of Anderson of Applicant's requirement in independent claims 1 and 12 of a set of ranges of cells, each range having the same size and at least two of said ranges having different relative addresses. Nor does Barnes describe this limitation. Claims 1 and 12 are therefore allowable over Anderson in view of Barnes. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and allowance of claims 1 and 12. All of the

remaining claims are dependent directly or indirectly on allowable claim 1 and are therefore also allowable.

The Application is deemed in condition for allowance and such action by the Examiner is urged. Should differences remain, however, which do not place one/more of the remaining claims in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned at the number provided below for the purpose of providing constructive assistance and suggestions in accordance with M.P.E.P. Sections 707, 707.07(d) and 707.07(j) in order that allowable claims can be presented, thereby placing the application in condition for allowance without further proceedings being necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

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